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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF
THE SOUTH PACIFIC

IPF:(1991-95) $29 000 000

(RAS/92/301) - South Pacific Forestry Development Programme

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	29 January 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	FAO
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 500 000 Source of funds: IPF
Other Donor contribution:	To be determined
Total UNDP budget:	$1 500 000

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
DEPT.

Project background

Forests have significant implications for the well-being of the peoples of Pacific Island Developing Countries (PIDCs). In larger countries (e.g. Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu), forests contribute to the national economies by means of job creation, infrastructure development, and income generation through exports of logs and wood products. In smaller countries, forests provide communities with shelter, protection against fragile soils, building materials, food, fuel, and medicine. Moreover, forests have been an integral part of the terrestrial and coastal eco-system in the South Pacific, providing habitable environment and ensuring reproduction of the fishery resources, water supply and biodiversity. However, deforestation and depletion of forest lands, due to unsustainable development activities, mounting population pressure and periodic cyclone disasters, has increasingly become a serious concern to Pacific island countries. Sustainability of forests, not only as an important economic resource but also as part of the fundamental life-supporting environment, is being threatened. Smaller countries are particularly vulnerable because of the size of the land and the fragility of their ecosystem.

The economic and environmental significance of forests in the Pacific had not been well recognised until quite recently. This is partly because forests had always been taken for granted. This situation has led to inadequate, and often non-existent, forest support institutions and capabilities, especially in smaller island countries. Since many of the problems are common throughout the Pacific, it will be much more effective to address these issues through a regional approach, which has been particularly successful in the subregion. Such an approach will enable more efficient use of available expertise and resources by avoiding duplication and promoting intra-Pacific cooperation. Against this background, the UNDP/FAO South Pacific Forestry Development Programme (RAS/86/036), April 1988 - December 1991, was launched as the first project to address the forestry issues on a regional

[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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cooperative basis. The June 1991 Mini-MAC recommended to adopt a donor collaboratory programmatic approach for the programme formulation based on the identification of subregion's priority needs, and to continue the efforts that had been previously made under the first project. To this end, close consultations have been held with countries, regional organizations (South Pacific Commission, South Pacific Environment Programme, the University of South Pacific, etc.) and the donor community.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the national institutional and technical capabilities required for the alleviation of the rapid loss of forest resources, which is threatening the fragile ecosystem and life-support system of PIDCs; (b) accomplish sustainable management of the remaining forest resources; (c) develop new resources to meet the rapidly growing demand for goods and services, as well as income and employment in the forestry sector; and (d) lay the necessary foundation for a Pacific regional forestry unit capable of continually providing support service with reduced external assistance.

Project activities will include:(a) strengthening the national capacity for reviewing and reforming forestry policies, plans and codes for practice, sustainable forest use and management, taking full cognisance of the land tenure system and the need for community level participation; (b) developing subregional (larger countries, high volcanic islands and atolls) guidelines and criteria to assist this process; (c) coordinating the collection, compilation and dissemination of forestry data, and information on the role, contribution and value of forests and trees; (d) developing/ introducing new/improved forest and tree resources, promoting small-scale, community-based forestry production and processing technologies, and supporting marketing; (e) improving national core technical expertise and strengthening institutional capacity through short and long-term training, secondment and consultancies; (f) fostering closer cooperation and collaboration among national, donor and other agencies from within and outside the region; and (g) preparing for the effective transfer of the functions and responsibilities of the regional forestry programme to an appropriate institution.

The project will provide necessary technical support to local NGOs active in this area, in collaboration with international NGOs and the Poverty Alleviation and Equitable Human Development Programme.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one project coordinator, three APOs/UNVs, administrative support; a subcontract; in-service training; and equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	750 000
Subcontract	100 000
Training	450 000
Equipment	100 000
Miscellaneous	100 000
Total	1 500 000

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